United Nations S/2010/665

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 23 December 2010 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 December 2010 (S/2010/664) concerning your intention to extend the appointment of Mr. Mike Smith (Australia) as the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate through 31 December 2011 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council, who have taken note thereof.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**
President of the Security Council

10-70765 (E) 281210

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United Nations S/2010/666

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 21 December 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, dated 21 September 2004 (S/2004/764) and 1 October 2004 (S/2004/765), concerning the security arrangements for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

As indicated in the exchange of letters, in addition to the protection then provided by the multinational force in Iraq, the Council welcomed the proposed arrangements for an integrated United Nations security structure consisting of four elements, namely, international security staff, protection coordination officers, personal security details and guard units. With regard to the fourth element, the Security Council authorized the deployment of three formed units, each consisting of up to 160 armed civilian police, paramilitary or military personnel (480 in total), to be provided as contingents from Members States and to form part of UNAMI, with the specific responsibility of controlling access to and conducting patrols within UNAMI premises.

I would like to thank the Security Council for its continued support for the integrated security structure in Iraq, which has been vital for the United Nations presence in the country since 2004. While noting the significant changes that have taken place in Iraq since that time, including a general improvement of the security situation and the progressive transfer of responsibilities from the multinational force (now the United States forces in Iraq) to the Iraqi security forces, Iraq remains a challenging operating environment. During the next year and with the planned United States forces drawdown, UNAMI will increasingly be required to rely upon the integrated United Nations security structure and the Iraqi security forces.

In view of the changing circumstances in Iraq, I intend to implement several important adjustments to the integrated United Nations security structure in its original configuration from 2004:

(a) The coordination mechanism between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq will include police advisers and/or liaison officers;

(b) In addition to controlling access to and conducting patrols within UNAMI premises, the guard force will provide mobile and close protection security for United Nations personnel outside United Nations premises. The United Nations has informed the Government of Iraq of its intentions in this regard.

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I believe that increased security support from the Iraqi security forces, as well as the continuation of the integrated United Nations security structure, as described above, will be critical to ensure that United Nations personnel operating in Iraq have an adequate level of protection in the foreseeable future.

I should be grateful if you could confirm whether these adjustments to the integrated United Nations security structure are acceptable to the Security Council. It would then be my intention to take the necessary steps to reconfigure the integrated United Nations security structure and approach Member States for contributions accordingly.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

United Nations S/2010/667

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 23 December 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 21 December 2010 (S/2010/666) concerning the establishment of an integrated United Nations security structure for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. The Council welcomes the proposed arrangements set out in your letter and urges Member States to respond positively with contributions.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**
President of the Security Council

10-70777 (E) 281210

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United Nations S/2010/668

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Uganda in October 2010 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ruhakana **Rugunda**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

10-70785 (E) 190111

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Uganda (October 2010)

Introduction

During the presidency of Uganda, in the month of October 2010, the Security Council held 20 formal meetings, including 18 public meetings, of which four were open debates. It also held two private meetings and eight closed consultations. The members of the Council undertook a mission to Uganda and the Sudan from 4 to 10 October.

The Council adopted five resolutions and three presidential statements. The President also read out four press statements and made oral remarks to the press in two instances.

Africa

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 20 October, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), Youssef Mahmoud, who presented the report of the Secretary-General on MINURCAT (S/2010/529). He commended the work of the Chadian/Sudanese Joint Border Monitoring Force, which had, inter alia, contributed to a calm security situation at the common border area and the increased return of internally displaced persons to their homes. He noted, however, that the humanitarian situation remained a matter of concern. The Council was also addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic, General Antoine Gambi, and the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, Ahmad Allam-mi.

In the consultations that followed, the members of the Security Council took note of the improving security situation in Eastern Chad, as well as the volatility prevailing in the north-eastern Central African Republic. In view of the imminent withdrawal of MINURCAT and the limited capacity of the Government of the Central African Republic, Council members noted the need to help that Government to deploy additional forces. The members of the Security Council welcomed the return of internally displaced persons and emphasized the need to ensure voluntary return. They welcomed the improved relations between Chad and the Sudan as crucial for the stabilization of the region.

On 21 October, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the President of Chad for MINURCAT in which he updated the Council on the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) sustainability plan, which outlined the financial and other needs required to enhance the Government's capacity to support DIS after MINURCAT departed.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 October, during consultations, the Council was briefed by Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti in her capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire. She highlighted the main findings contained in the report of the Group of Experts pursuant to resolution 1893 (2009), and the Committee's activities since her last briefing of 15 April 2010.

On 15 October, the Council adopted resolution 1946 (2010), by which it, inter alia, renewed until 30 April 2011 the measures on arms and the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004) and the measures preventing the importation of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire imposed by paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005). The Council decided to review the measures in the light of the progress achieved in the electoral process and in the implementation of the key steps of the peace process, as referred to in resolution 1933 (2010), no later than three months after the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential elections. The Council also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts, as set out in paragraph 7 of resolution 1727 (2006), until 30 April 2011.

The President of the Council later made oral remarks to the press in which he recalled the priority of holding Presidential elections scheduled for 31 October 2010 in free, peaceful and transparent conditions, as a crucial element of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 October, at an open meeting, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, on her visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She informed the Council that the opportunity that had been provided by the arrests of some of the perpetrators of recent mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be seized to ensure that all the perpetrators and those who bore responsibility for sexual violence were held accountable. The Council then held informal consultations in which it reiterated its support for the mandate of the Special Representative.

On 15 October, at an open meeting, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Roger Meece, on the report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2010/512). He said that the horrific attacks in late July and early August in North Kivu had underscored the importance of civilian protection, and as a result a major internal review of programmes had been undertaken related to MONUSCO protection activities. He stated that given the escalating violence, MONUSCO had established a more visible and active military posture, but he cautioned that even good short-term military operations alone would not be sufficient to ensure long-term security in the country.

The Council then held informal consultations in which members exchanged views on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the meeting, the President of the Council made remarks to the press, noting that while

most of the country was relatively stable, there remained deep concerns about the security challenges in the east of the country. He reiterated the need for Congolese authorities to continue the fight against impunity, especially against all the perpetrators of human rights violations and sexual violence. The Council commended the States in the region for their increased cooperation and joint efforts undertaken to address the serious threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Somalia

On 21 October, the Security Council was briefed by the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia. The Secretary-General expressed concern about the fragile security situation in the country, while noting with optimism the recent political and security developments, including the nomination of a new Prime Minister designate. He called upon the Security Council to take bold and courageous decisions to strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Secretary-General commended the African Union and AMISOM for the efforts undertaken in assisting the Transitional Federal Government. The Council was also briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, and heard statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim. Mr. Lamamra outlined the recommendations of the African Union Peace and Security Council on how to address the challenges facing Somalia at three levels of action: by the Somalis, the African Union, and the United Nations and the wider international community. He requested the Council to endorse the recommendations of the African Union addressed to the United Nations that included, among others, the newly authorized strength and enhanced support package for AMISOM, imposition of a no-fly zone and naval blockade, and the United Nation's reaffirmation of its commitment to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. In his statement, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ibrahim, endorsed the position of the African Union Peace and Security Council and expressed the determination of the Transitional Federal Government to address internal differences.

In the private meeting that followed, members of the Council expressed their concern at the continued instability in Somalia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. They reaffirmed their support for the Djibouti peace process, the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM and stressed the importance of predictable, reliable and timely provision of resources to the latter, as well as support to the Transitional Federal Government for the rebuilding of state institutions, in particular the security sector. They called upon the leadership of Somalia to strengthen harmony within and between the transitional federal institutions and expeditiously confirm the Prime Minister designate so that the remaining tasks under the transitional period could be completed, including the constitutional process and reconciliation.

Members of the Council also welcomed the appointment of former President Jerry Rawlings as the new African Union High Representative for Somalia and noted the decisions adopted from 25 to 27 July 2010 by the African Union Summit in Kampala and the recommendations of the ministerial meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 15 October 2010. A press statement (SC/10065) was issued at the end of the meeting.

The Sudan

On 14 October, the Council adopted resolution 1945 (2010) by which it, inter alia, extended until 19 October 2011 the mandate of the Panel of Experts, originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and previously extended by resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), 1713 (2006), 1779 (2007), 1841 (2008) and 1891 (2009). The Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Committee to encourage dialogue with interested Member States, in particular those in the region, including by inviting representatives of such States to meet with the Committee to discuss implementation of the measures, and further encouraged the Committee to continue its dialogue with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

On 25 October, the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, on the situation in the Sudan and the work of UNAMID and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). He informed the Council of progress being made regarding the forthcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, including the release of the timetable for the referendum process by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. He noted that much still remained to be accomplished and expressed concern over the lack of progress on other referendum-related issues, including the Abyei referendum. On Darfur, he observed that there had been some improvement in the overall security situation, but there were concerns over violence in camps for internally displaced persons, restrictions on movement of peacekeepers, and criminal activities including kidnappings. The Council was also addressed by the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations, Ambassador Ali Osman.

The members of the Security Council held consultations in which they urged the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to fulfil the commitments they had made on 24 September 2010 and to the Council during its visit to the Sudan, namely: full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including holding of a credible, peaceful and free referendum on 9 January 2011. The Council also undertook to follow the situation in Darfur closely, building on its visit on 7 and 8 October 2010.

The President of the Council later made oral remarks to the press in which he said the Council urged the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to fulfil their commitments for its full and timely implementation, including the holding of credible, peaceful and free referendums on 9 January 2011.

Peace and security in Africa

On 22 October, the Council held an open debate on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, presided over by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs of Uganda, Eriya Kategaya.

In his opening remarks, the First Deputy Prime Minister noted that peacekeeping was increasingly becoming a shared responsibility in which the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and the wider international community had critical roles to play. He welcomed the progress being made towards strengthening the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. He pointed out that the African Union, cognizant of the detrimental impact

of prevalence of conflicts, in terms of retarding socio-economic development and causing untold suffering to the population, had shown its resolve and commitment to preventing, mediating and resolving conflicts on the continent. However, the efforts of the African Union to effectively deploy peacekeeping operations, he said, continued to be hampered by the lack of sustainable, predictable and flexible financing. He noted that while the support rendered through voluntary contributions was appreciated, such support was not only unpredictable but also unsustainable. He underscored the need to take decisive action on practical ways of actualizing that support, as was recommended almost two years ago by the African Union-United Nations Panel chaired by former Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

The Secretary-General presented his report on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (A/65/510-S/2010/514). He said that the work of regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was indispensable, and the African Union and its subregional organizations had already made great efforts to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts on the continent, with their personnel often paying the highest price. While thanking the African Union for its commitment to peace and security and close cooperation with the United Nations, he noted that the relationship had yet to reach its full potential.

The Secretary-General said that whereas building the capacity of the African Union was important, solutions must be found to provide predictable, sustainable and flexible resources to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Council. He said African-led peacekeeping operations ought to receive the same support as United Nations operations, including reimbursement. He said African Union peacekeepers should uphold the same professional standards as United Nations personnel, and the Secretariat of the United Nations had been working with the African Union Commission to define guidelines and strengthen capacity to protect civilians.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra, welcomed the progress made in strengthening the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

He highlighted the close working relationship between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, the launching on 25 September 2010 of the Joint African Union-United Nations Task Force on Peace and Security, the establishment in July of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in Addis Ababa, and the holding of a retreat in August in Cairo, within the framework of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, between senior officials of the African Union and the United Nations, which had given new impetus to more effective coordination.

The Commissioner noted that some progress had been made towards the implementation of some of the recommendations by the African Union-United Nations Panel led by former Prime Minister Prodi. While noting that the logistical support package for AMISOM financed through United Nations assessed contributions had been a key factor in the operations of AMISOM, he called for further progress towards finding a lasting solution for sustainable and predictable funding for African Union-led peacekeeping operations. The Commissioner said that the African Union was determined to fully play its role, consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, through enhancing its capacity,

accelerating the full operationalization of Africa's peace and security architecture, and making conflict prevention a centrepiece of its actions.

The Council also heard statements by Council members, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Odein Ajumogobia, and by representatives of eight Member States and the European Union.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 22 October (S/PRST/2010/21), in which it, inter alia, noted the Secretary-General's observation in his report that while the African Union was taking critical measures to enhance its institutional capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations with the support of the United Nations and key partners, the issue of securing sustainable, predictable and flexible financing remained a key challenge. The Security Council expressed its determination to continue working, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter, towards a more predictable and sustainable solution to those funding challenges.

Security Council Mission to Africa

On 14 October, the Council was briefed by the leaders of its Mission to Uganda and the Sudan from 4 to 10 October. The Permanent Representative of Uganda, Ambassador Ruhakana Rugunda, in his national capacity and as leader of the Uganda leg on 5 and 6 October, said that during the Mission's visit to the Entebbe Regional Service Centre, Council members had been taken on a guided tour of the Centre and were briefed on its operations. The Council had been informed that since the Centre's establishment in 2003, its services to United Nations missions had steadily increased, and that in addition to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the base supported UNAMID, MINURCAT and UNMIS as well as other United Nations agencies. Council members were further informed that the aim of the Centre was to deliver services faster in support of missions, to improve the quality of the services, and to increase efficiency and effective use of resources.

Ambassador Rugunda said the Council members had held a meeting with President Yoweri Museveni during which they reiterated the Security Council's support for the improvement of relations among the countries of the region, emphasized support for action against armed groups in the region, particularly the Lord's Resistance Army, reiterated the Security Council's support for the Djibouti peace process and support for AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia. President Museveni stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations. He affirmed the importance of full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the holding of a free, transparent and timely referendum in Southern Sudan. He also expressed confidence that stability in Somalia was achievable if the international community supported AMISOM with the requisite resources.

The Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Ambassador Susan Rice, who co-led the Sudan leg on 7 and 8 October, said that the purpose of the Mission was to underscore that the Council was united in its desire for the Sudan's referendums on self-determination to be carried out in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. She said that the Council reiterated that the referendums should be held on time, they should be credible, and their results must be accepted. The Council also sought to assess the status of preparations for the

referendums, as well as the performance of UNMIS in providing assistance for implementation of the Agreement. The Council stressed that it expected UNMIS to have unhindered access, and emphasized the importance of addressing the humanitarian and development challenges facing Southern Sudan, regardless of the outcome of the referendums. She said the Council members had held a meeting in Juba with the First Vice-President of the Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, who informed them that the expectations in the South were high, and the people were focused on the referendum. He also shared his concerns about the unresolved border demarcation, the delay in preparing for the referendum in Abyei, as well as the slow progress of negotiations on post-referendum issues.

On 8 October, the Mission visited the Rajaf Police Training Centre, where the Government of Southern Sudan was training a civilian police force.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, who co-led the Sudan leg, said that in El Fasher on 7 October, the Mission had met with the Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari and UNAMID senior staff, who briefed it on the current security situation. On 8 October, the Council Mission toured the UNAMID supercamp and held meetings with members of the United Nations country team and representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

He said the Mission has also held a meeting with the Governor of Northern Darfur and expressed its deep concern about the upsurge in violence in Darfur, the number of civilian casualties, and the continued restrictions on humanitarian access. The Mission reiterated the Council's call on the Government and all parties to cooperate fully with UNAMID, and expressed support for the African Union-United Nations-led peace process and the work of the Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, and urged all rebel groups to join the Doha peace process without preconditions or further delay. Members of the Council also underlined the need for action on impunity. The Mission also visited the Abu Shouk IDP camp.

Ambassador Grant said that in Khartoum, the Mission had met with the Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Osman Taha, as well as Foreign Minister Ali Karti, who reaffirmed the Government's commitment to holding the referendum in Southern Sudan on time, in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Council members welcomed that commitment and affirmed the need for outstanding issues to be settled. The Mission also met with southerners living in the north, the Governor of Blue Nile State and the Deputy Governor of South Kordofan State.

Americas

Haiti

On 14 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1944 (2010) extending the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2011.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 13 October, the Council adopted resolution 1943 (2010), by which it, inter alia, extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), as defined in resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), for a period of 12 months until 13 October 2011. The Council authorized the Member States participating in ISAF to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate.

Nepal

On 14 October, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in Nepal, including the work of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, as requested in Security Council resolution 1939 (2010).

The briefing followed Mr. Pascoe's visit to Nepal on 6 and 7 October 2010, which aimed at assessing the status of the peace process, with a special focus on the implementation of the Four Point Agreement of 13 September between the Government of Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). He informed the Council that, while the political impasse remained, some important steps had been taken, and efforts were continuing for achieving the objectives the parties had set for themselves.

On 20 October, the Security Council continued its consideration of the situation in Nepal in consultations. The Council members, in a press statement (SC/10062), recalled the commitment of the Nepalese political parties to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and noted recent developments in Nepal's peace process, including the renewed efforts of the Special Committee for supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist Army personnel, and the establishment of its secretariat that would take forward the integration and rehabilitation process. The members of the Council also underlined the importance of the Agreement and implementation of a clear workplan from the Special Committee that included timelines and benchmarks and arrangements for the management of any of UNMIN's residual tasks, following its termination. The members of the Council reaffirmed their support for Nepal's peace process and underscored the need for continued progress in the remaining three months of the UNMIN mandate, in accordance with resolution 1939 (2010).

Timor-Leste

On 19 October, the Security Council held an open debate on the situation in Timor-Leste, including the work of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT, Ameerah Haq.

Ms. Haq informed the Council of the stable security and political situation prevailing in the country, as well as the formulation of several plans aimed at setting Timor-Leste on the path to long-term development, especially the draft Strategic National Development Plan. She also briefed the Council on the progress being made in the resumption of policing responsibilities by the Timor-Leste National

Police (PNTL). The Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Sofia Mesqita Borges, also addressed the Council and expressed support for UNMIT.

Members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made and reiterated the need for sustained international support with a view to consolidating the gains attained so far.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 October, the Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, during which it heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco.

Mr. Fernandez-Taranco stressed the need to overcome the current impasse in the talks between Israelis and Palestinians and to ensure that when talks resumed they moved intensively and definitively to seek resolutions of the key core issues. He noted that the parties had not met since 15 September, following the expiration of Israel's partial settlement moratorium in the West Bank on 26 September. He reiterated that there was no alternative to a negotiated settlement resulting in two States living side by side in peace. He said that in spite of the uncertainties, the State-building agenda of the Palestinian Authority continued to advance.

The Council also heard statements by the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer for Palestine. Statements were made by Council members and 25 other speakers. Most speakers called upon both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to return to the negotiating table and to make the necessary compromises to agree on a two-State solution for durable peace and security. Many speakers called on Israel to renew its moratorium on settlement activity, and called for an immediate freeze on all settlement activity. On Lebanon, many speakers expressed support for the independence of the Special Tribunal and reiterated the importance of all parties fulfilling their obligations under Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Lebanon

On 28 October, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) as reflected in the twelfth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/538).

Thematic and general issues

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 13 October, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding and considered the reports of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/64/866-S/2010/386) and on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466).

In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that peacebuilding efforts had become more integrated, coherent and flexible, but there was still need to show more tangible and quick results on the ground. He said that while significant progress was being made, it was important to remember that for people who had suffered through conflict, progress could not come fast enough. He said that senior

leaders of the United Nations were now deployed quickly to crisis situations, but there was still need for them to be supported by properly trained and equipped teams to perform the full range of responsibilities from the very beginning. The Secretary-General noted that in-depth consideration of how to achieve that was under way.

He underscored the need for reliable funding, developing strategic partnerships, and coherence among institutional arrangements of the various United Nations actors, as well as closer cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Secretary-General, introducing his new report on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466), pointed out that overcoming the hurdles to women's greater engagement and empowerment would require integrating their effort into all activities and providing dedicated funding for women's needs. He called for a pragmatic and flexible approach in bringing the requisite tools into play at the appropriate moments.

The Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, emphasized the need for more coordinated, flexible and predictable financial support for peacebuilding. He also underscored the importance of a more gender-responsive peacebuilding agenda, in which women were recognized both as victims of conflict and agents for change.

Statements were made by Council members and the representatives of 14 Member States and one organization. Most speakers welcomed the continuing efforts to improve post-conflict peacebuilding. They also emphasized the importance of national ownership, building of national capacity, and the need for a holistic, complementary and integrated approach to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. It was stressed that closer coordination among all relevant actors and the Peacebuilding Commission, including with the international financial institutions, was essential.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 13 October (S/PRST/2010/20), in which it, inter alia, welcomed and encouraged more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts, which included forging stronger partnerships among Member States, regional and subregional organizations, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, other multilateral partners, civil society and the private sector, with a focus on delivering greater impact and results on the ground. The Council also reaffirmed the critical importance of timely, flexible and predictable funding for peacebuilding, and urged Member States and other partners to increase efforts towards achieving that goal, including through the replenishment of the Peacebuilding Fund and through multi-donor trust funds. The Council stressed the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, including peacebuilding, and in that regard, underlined the importance of enhancing the mobilization of resources for initiatives that addressed women's peacebuilding needs, advanced gender equality and empowered women in peacebuilding contexts.

On 29 October 2010, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1947 (2010), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the report presented by the co-facilitators entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" (A/64/868-S/2010/393, annex) and requested all relevant United Nations actors to take forward, within their mandates and as appropriate, the recommendations of the report with the aim of

further improving the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council also called for a further comprehensive review in five years following the procedure set out in paragraph 27 of resolution 1645 (2005).

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 4 October, the members of the Security Council, in a press statement (SC/10048), condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that had occurred in Abuja on 1 October 2010, causing numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of that heinous crime and to their families, and to the people and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The members of the Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

On 25 October, the members of the Security Council, in a press statement (SC/10070), condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the United Nations operations centre in the western city of Herat, Afghanistan, on 23 October. The members of the Council noted that while no casualties among the United Nations staff had been reported, the Council deeply regretted that a number of security guards had been wounded. The members of the Council reiterated their steadfast support for the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan. They also underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Afghan authorities in that regard.

Women and peace and security

On 26 October, marking the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), the Council held an open debate on women and peace and security, presided over by Uganda's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Eriya Kategaya. In his opening remarks, he said that although a great deal of progress had been made by the United Nations and the wider international community towards enhancing the participation of women in conflict resolution, peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction, there were still situations in which conflicts continued to have a devastating impact on women and girls. He stressed the need to move beyond the reaffirmation of a common commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and make strong, time-bound and measurable commitments for action.

The Secretary-General, in a statement via video-link, noted the wide-ranging activities, on the part of the United Nations and Member States, spurred by resolution 1325 (2000) over the past 10 years, but pointed out that the decade had also been marred by widespread rape, physical abuse and other violations of the rights and physical security of women and children during and after conflict. He called upon the Council to endorse the comprehensive set of indicators set forth in his report on women and peace and security (S/2010/498), with a view to ending impunity and ensuring women's participation in all stages of peace processes.

The Council was also briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Michelle Bachelet, who said that the comprehensive set of indicators in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498)

represented a highly practical new tool to support implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. She said that with strong Council leadership, the determination of Member States, civil society engagement, and United Nations commitment and assistance, would collectively ensure coherent implementation of the important work on women, peace and security.

The Council also heard a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, who said that the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support had jointly launched a process to review implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which had showed how the leadership of peacekeeping missions could use their good offices to facilitate women's participation in political processes. The review had also showed that cultivating partnerships with women in post-conflict countries greatly enhanced knowledge and understanding of the operational environment, and thus the ability to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

The President of the Economic and Social Council, Hamidon Ali, noted that gender equality and empowerment of women were cross-cutting issues, and that the Economic and Social Council reviewed annually how the United Nations system mainstreamed gender perspectives in its activities. He said that violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations was a challenge both to development and to security, and affected not only the health and safety of women, but also the political, economic and social stability of their nations.

A representative of the Civil Society Advisory Group to the United Nations on Women, Peace and Security, Thelma Awori, said that resolution 1325 (2000) provided a valuable road map, which must be followed. She pointed out that women were still excluded from many of the forums that would determine their future, which was costly not only for women but also in terms of the sustainability of peace. She welcomed the indicators set forth in the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/498), as well as the creation of UN-Women, and called upon the Council to commit itself to taking action on women, peace and security issues in its work.

Statements were made by the Council members, including the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria; the Secretary of State of the United States of America; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; and 70 representatives of Members States, including the Minister for International Cooperation of Canada; the Minister for Equal Opportunity of Italy; the Minister for Tourism and Culture of Gambia; the Minister for Gender and Development of Liberia; the Minister of the Interior of Finland; the Minister for Defence of Norway; the Deputy Minister for Social Development of South Africa; the Minister of State for Integration, Equality and Human Rights of Ireland; and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; the Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia; the Head of the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women of Mexico; and a Senator from Rwanda. Statements were also made by representatives of organizations and observers.

Most speakers welcomed the progress made over the last decade since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and urged intensified action to improve the situation of women on the ground as well as to ensure their greater participation in peace and security activities. Many speakers pledged their respective countries' support for those efforts, and outlined national action plans towards that end. The

need to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations was reiterated.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 26 October (S/PRST/2010/22), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the efforts of Member States to implement its resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level, including the increase in the number of States that had formulated or revised national action plans and strategies, and encouraged Member States to continue to pursue such implementation. The Council also welcomed the concrete commitments made by a number of Member States during the Ministerial open debate on 26 October to increase their efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and invited those Member States and any other Member States that wished to do so to regularly review implementation of the resolution and to report to the Security Council on progress made as appropriate. The Council supported taking forward, including by relevant United Nations entities, the set of indicators contained in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) for use as an initial framework to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000) in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of that resolution, as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country.

International Court of Justice

On 27 October, at a private meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Hisashi Owada, on the work of the Court.

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 28 October, the Council held a public meeting during which it adopted its annual report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. The introduction to the report was prepared by the delegation of Nigeria as President of the Council in July 2010, while the body of the report was prepared by the Secretariat. The decision was reflected in a note by the President of the Council (S/2010/552).

United Nations S/2010/669

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representatives and deputies and alternate representatives of the members of the Security Council elected for the period 2011-2012

1. At its 28th plenary meeting, on 12 October 2010, the General Assembly elected Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa as non-permanent members of the Security Council for a term of two years beginning on 1 January 2011.

2. Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that, with regard to the representation of the members of the Council elected for the period 2011-2012, he has received the communications referred to hereunder.

Colombia: Credentials from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, signed on 11 November 2010, stating that Mr. Néstor Osorio has been appointed representative of Colombia on the Security Council, Mr. Fernando Alzate, deputy representative and Ms. Isaura Duarte, alternate representative.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

Germany: Credentials from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, signed on 1 December 2010, stating that Mr. Peter Wittig has been appointed representative of Germany on the Security Council, Mr. Miguel Berger, deputy representative, and Mr. Christophe Eick, Mr. Christoph Retzlaff, Mr. Daniel Krull, Mr. Ralf Schroeer, Mr. Elmar Eich, Ms. Susanne Fries-Gaier, Mr. Florian Laudi, Ms. Sigrid Sommer, Mr. Holger Tillmann, Mr. Jens-Christian Gaedtke, Mr. Alexander Eberl, Ms. Jana Boelter, Ms. Tatjana Schenke-Olivieri, Ms. Sibylle Osten and Mr. Stefan Roessel, alternate representatives.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

India: Credentials from the Minister of External Affairs of India, signed on 20 October 2010, stating that Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri has been appointed representative of India on the Security Council, Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, deputy representative, and Mr. Vinay Kumar, Mr. Anupam Ray, Mr. Shashi Bhushan Singh, Mr. Pradip Kumar Choudhary, Mr. Manish Gupta, Mr. Alok Amitabh Dimri, Mr. Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Mr. R. Ravindra, Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Mrs. Namgya C. Khampa and Mr. Acquino Vimal, alternate representatives.

10-70711 (E) 281210

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In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

Portugal: Credentials from the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, signed on 3 December 2010, stating that Mr. José Filipe Moraes Cabral has been appointed representative of Portugal on the Security Council, Mr. João Maria Cabral, deputy representative, and Mr. Francisco Vaz Patto, Mr. Luis Augusto Fernandes Gaspar da Silva, Ms. Susana Vaz Patto, Mr. João Miguel Madureira, Lt. Colonel Marco António Teresa, Mr. Frederico Silva, Mr. Manuel Paulo Silva Pereira, Mr. Rui da Câmara Homem de Noronha, Mr. João Vasco Barradas Durão Palma Fialho, Mr. Pedro Courela, Mr. Pedro Bartolomeu Santos Matos Perestrelo Pinto, Ms. Elisabete Proença Rodrigues e Cortes Palma, Ms. Ana Isabel Teixeira Colea, Ms. Ana e Brito Maneira, Mr. Nuno Cabral, Ms. Ana C. Gameiro, Ms. Clotilde Mesquita and Ms. Vanessa Gomes, alternate representatives.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

South Africa: Credentials from the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, signed on 19 November 2010, stating that Mr. Baso Sangqu has been appointed representative of South Africa on the Security Council, Mr. Doctor Mashabane, deputy representative, and Mr. Zaheer Laher, Mr. Cedrick Charles Crowley, Mr. Johann Paschalis, Ms. Lulamah Rulumeni, Ms. Nomfanelo Kota, Mr. Dire David Tladi, Ms. Kgomotso Jolobe, Mr. Josiah Lebakeng, Ms. Moné Dye, Mr. Malibongwe Patrick Mcakuvana, Mr. Godlip Lesiba Ratlou, Colonel Sipiwo Dlomo and Mr. Magen Govender, alternate representatives.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

United Nations S/2010/670

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2010

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed on 13 December 2010, stating that Mr. Željko Jerkić has been appointed alternate representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

10-70791 (E) 281210

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United Nations S/2010/671

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2010

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Mexico on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 14 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations stating that Mrs. Yanerit Cristina Morgan Sotomayor has been appointed alternate representative of Mexico on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

10-70797 (E) 281210

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United Nations A/65/667–S/2010/672

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 117
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 21 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 12 November 2010 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Dimitris P. Droutsas, and upon instructions from my Government, I should be grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 117, and of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Anastassis **Mitsialis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-71130 (E) 040111

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Annex to the letter dated 21 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

12 November 2010

As you are aware, negotiations under the auspices of your Personal Envoy, Ambassador Nimetz, over the name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are going through a delicate phase.

The only viable solution is a mutually agreed settlement. This can be achieved if both parties make reciprocal compromises. Greece has taken a major step of compromise by accepting a compound name with a geographical qualifier for all uses and purposes. It is now upon the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to act.

Guided by the spirit of cooperation for reaching a mutually acceptable settlement, we have initiated a policy of high-level contacts with the leadership of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Our goal is to build a better climate that would contribute to the efforts to achieve a mutually acceptable solution which would promote the country's Euro-atlantic aspirations.

Unfortunately, our positive stance has not been reciprocated by the Government of our neighbour. Their actions and statements prove that they do not value our constructive efforts and that they are not prepared to embrace the basic idea that reciprocal concessions are essential in order to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's leadership has once again recurred to nationalism and old practices of "antiquization", manifested, this time, in a series of relief representations of prominent Greek historical figures and symbols of Ancient Macedonia, such as the Vergina Sun, as part of the "Skopje 2014" plan.

Such actions constitute a direct violation of the Interim Accord signed between the two countries in 1995, which in article 7, paragraph 2, stipulates that "upon entry into force of the Interim Accord, the Party of the second part (i.e. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) shall cease to use *in any way the symbol (i.e. Vergina sun) in all its forms* (emphasis added) displayed on its national flag prior to such entry into force".

In addition, this same article 7, in paragraph 3, requires each party not to use symbols belonging to the historic or cultural heritage of the other party, something that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is doing regarding symbols belonging to the heritage of Greece and refuses to take any corrective actions despite our protests in this respect.

I have to draw your attention to the fact that such actions undermine good neighbourly relations and do not contribute to creating a climate conducive to finding a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue in the context of the United Nations-led negotiations.

This escalating intransigence and provocation is partly due to the fact that the international community failed to get across the right message. Therefore, I am appealing to you, Mr. Secretary-General, to urgently send a clear and strong

message to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's leadership, stressing that such rhetoric and practices are a major obstacle to efforts for reaching a mutually acceptable settlement on the name issue, as they negatively affect regional stability and compromise good neighbourly relations.

(*Signed*) Dimitris P. **Droutsas**

United Nations A/ES-10/507 S/2010/673

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 29 December 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the Eve of the New Year, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to be extremely grave owing to the illegal, destructive and provocative policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power. In this regard, I must draw your attention specifically to the ongoing acts of violence and terror being perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population by Israeli settlers, illegally transferred to the Occupied Territory and clearly constituting part of the occupying force, in order to advance its attempts to illegally de facto annex more Palestinian land.

The most recent illegal activities are the confiscation by violent settlers from the illegal settlement of "Keda" of 100 dunums of land in the Palestinian village of Jaloud, south-east of Nablus. The village of Jaloud is also facing additional aggression related to the latest work by the settlers on illegal new construction expanding the settlement of "Shavot Rahel" built illegally on Jaloud's lands. On 26 December 2010, an additional illegal and provocative act of aggression was committed by armed Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of "Yair" confiscating 1,500 dunums of privately owned Palestinian land in Yatta village near the city of Al-Khalil (Hebron). Similar to previous such terror attacks and illegal confiscation of Palestinian lands in the region of Bethlehem and Nablus, this rampage was perpetrated under the protection of the Israeli occupying forces, who only intervened to guarantee the safe return of the assailants to their illegal settlements.

As well as the intensification of other illegal measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the situation is most severe in areas in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, where Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out illegal activities and measures, particularly settlement activities, for the direct purpose of altering the demographic composition, character and legal status of the city, including by de-populating the city of its Palestinian inhabitants through forced evictions, home demolitions, revocation of residency rights and other measures in flagrant violation of international law, including in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

10-71224 (E) 050111

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In this regard, it is imperative to note that the escalation of settlers' violence and aggression is occurring simultaneously with the extremists policies and positions adopted by the Israeli Government and especially the latest provocative statement by Avigdor Lieberman, the Foreign Minister of Israel, in which he excluded the possible achievement of peace. This is an alarming, condemnable and irresponsible position that represents a real threat to the international and regional efforts in seeking a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

We must also draw your attention to the fact that while we commemorate the second anniversary of the brutal Israeli war of aggression against the Gaza Strip, Israel, the occupying Power, not only continues to impose its illegal and inhumane siege on 1.5 million Palestinians, living in severe conditions in the Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international humanitarian law, but also escalates its military aggression against Palestinian civilians in Gaza, which resulted in several deaths and injuries. Indeed, it is clear that the escalation by Israel, the occupying Power, of violent acts and measures against the Gaza Strip is, inter alia, intended to divert the international community's attention from its ongoing theft and colonization of Palestinian land in the West Bank, particularly in East Jerusalem, aimed at distracting attention from this core issue obstructing the peace process and at diluting the clearly intensifying global pressure on Israel to cease its illegal settlement activities, to abide by its legal obligations and to commit to the peace process based on its agreed terms of reference.

This grave situation requires urgent attention and serious action by the international community, including the Security Council in accordance with its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to reject completely all illegal Israeli actions and to not waver in the demand for a complete cessation of settlement activities and all other illegal Israeli policies and measures that are jeopardizing the situation on the ground and seriously sabotaging the possibility of achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. We are at a critical juncture and must not lose the opportunity before us to move forward to peace based on the firm international consensus that prevails.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 379 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 December 2010 (A/ES-10/506-S/2010/612) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/65/674–S/2010/674

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 23 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey on 21 December 2010 regarding the bilateral agreements concluded by the Greek Cypriot Administration with Eastern Mediterranean coastal States related to maritime jurisdiction (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative

10-71212 (E) 050111

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Annex to the letter dated 23 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

21 December 2010

It has been a source of concern that the Greek Cypriot Administration has been concluding bilateral agreements with Eastern Mediterranean coastal States related to maritime jurisdiction areas since 2003.

Most recently, the Greek Cypriot Administration signed an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) delimitation agreement with Israel, in Nicosia, on 17 December 2010.

It was known that negotiations to conclude such an agreement were under way for some time. In our several diplomatic démarches with Israel in this regard, it was underlined that the conclusion of such an agreement with the Greek Cypriots would disregard the Turkish Cypriots' existing and inherent equal rights and interests, have an adverse effect on the ongoing settlement negotiations and not contribute to peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean. On 16 December 2010, Undersecretary Ambassador Sinirlioğlu summoned the Ambassador of Israel in Ankara to the Ministry and explained once more our views and position in detail.

Despite all these démarches, the signing of the said agreement constitutes an unfortunate development.

Turkey does not have any claim regarding the maritime areas subject to the said EEZ delimitation agreement. Turkey approaches this issue within the context of the Cyprus problem.

These kinds of agreement are directly linked to the sovereignty issue, which is one of the indispensable components of the ongoing comprehensive settlement negotiations and, due to the agreement in principle, they have been left to the discretion of the new partnership government. By ignoring the Turkish Cypriots' rights, the Greek Cypriots' efforts to conclude such agreements are highly untimely and raise questions as to their real intentions and sincerity regarding the settlement process.

As already announced by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots also have rights and jurisdiction over the maritime areas of the Cyprus Island. The Greek Cypriot Administration does not represent in law or in fact the Turkish Cypriots and Cyprus as a whole. Therefore, agreements signed by the Greek Cypriots with countries of the region are null and void for Turkey.

It is our earnest expectation from the international community and especially from the countries of the region that all would avoid supporting the Greek Cypriots' unilateral activities that would have a negative impact on the comprehensive settlement negotiations.

Turkey, along with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, will continue its efforts, through diplomatic and political channels, in order to protect the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriots.

United Nations S/2010/675

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30) and Security Council resolution 1872 (2009), and as specified in paragraph 20 of resolution 1910 (2010), in which the Council requested me to report on all aspects of the resolution every four months. This report provides an update on major developments in Somalia since my report of 9 September 2010 (S/2010/447) and assesses the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situation as well as progress made in implementing the United Nations strategy for Somalia. The report also covers the operational activities of the United Nations and the international community, as well as developments in counter-piracy activities.

II. Main developments in Somalia

A. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, serious differences prevailed between the President, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the former Prime Minister, Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, over the management of the transition in general, and the performance of the Cabinet and the constitution-making process in particular. As a result of these tensions, the Prime Minister resigned on 21 September.

3. On 14 October, President Sharif announced the appointment of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed as the new Prime Minister of Somalia. A dispute ensued between the President and the Speaker of Parliament, Hassan Sharif, around the mode of endorsement of the Prime Minister-designate. While the President favoured an open vote, the Speaker insisted on a secret ballot, on the basis of different interpretations of Parliament's rules of procedure.

4. My Special Representative travelled to Mogadishu on several occasions to try and diffuse these tensions. He also delivered a unified message from the United Nations, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the international community at large, urging the Somali leaders to resolve their differences to allow the formation of a government. Following the mediation by my Special Representative and regional partners, Parliament confirmed Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed as the Prime Minister on 31 November through an open vote.

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5. In a follow-up visit to Mogadishu on 6 November, my Special Representative met with the President, the Speaker and the new Prime Minister to discuss the formation of a new government, the implementation of the remaining transitional tasks, and the development of a clear political road map, in particular with respect to reconciliation and outreach initiatives and the completion of an inclusive constitution-making process.

6. On 12 November, Prime Minister Abdullahi Mohamed proposed a lean cabinet of 18 Ministers, including a female Minister, drawn mainly from the diaspora. The Cabinet was endorsed by Parliament on 27 November. The Prime Minister has stated that he will focus, as a matter of priority, on the constitution-making process and reaching out to the armed opposition groups through dialogue. Subsequently, the Prime Minister issued a draft political road map, in response to a request made by the International Contact Group on Somalia in Madrid, outlining his Government's vision for the management of the transitional period, which is set to end in August 2011. These include the establishment of oversight and accountability mechanisms for the Transitional Federal Government, audit of the Somali civil service, establishment of a committee of highly respected Somalis to advise on the post-transitional political dispensation as part of the constitutional process, and the strengthening of security institutions. My Special Representative and the United Nations country team were consulted on the road map on 7 December.

7. On 26 September, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a (ASWJ) announced the collapse of talks with the Transitional Federal Government and its decision not to participate in the new government. Subsequently, President Sharif stated that his Government would continue to honour the agreement with ASWJ and called on ASWJ to do the same. Despite some internal differences in respect of the implementation of the agreement, ASWJ has not withdrawn from the government, with two of its members appointed in the new Cabinet.

8. In "Somaliland", following the successful elections of June 2010, the House of Elders extended the term of office of the House of Representatives for two years and eight months, and the term of the local councils for one and half years.

9. In late September, the United States announced a "dual track" approach to Somalia, which would seek to strengthen ties with "Somaliland" and "Puntland" in order to stem the growing threat posed by extremists from southern central Somalia. Both autonomous regions welcomed the announcement and have stepped up cooperation to address extremist threats and to amicably resolve territorial disputes over the areas of Sool and Sanaag.

B. Security situation

10. In September 2010, troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) foiled an attempted suicide attack on their base at the international airport in Mogadishu. In recent weeks, despite continued attacks by insurgent forces, the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM forces have made some territorial gains in Mogadishu. In central Somalia, the Transitional Federal Government relies on its alliance with ASWJ for control of the Hiraan, Galguduud and Mudug regions. Overall, however, the security situation in southern and central Somalia remained fragile and unpredictable during the reporting period, which led

to a cessation of most humanitarian activities in southern Somalia, while in Mogadishu, humanitarian operations were limited to critical lifesaving activities.

11. Since mid-October, fighting between pro-Transitional Federal Government militias and Al-Shabaab over Bula Hawa, a strategic town near the Kenyan and Ethiopian borders, threatened to spill over into Kenya, while causing considerable disruption to living conditions, especially for the population located on the Somali side of border. The consequences from the merger between Al-Shabaab and Hizbul-Islam, reported on 19 December 2010, are still unknown.

12. Notwithstanding the security measures taken by the "Puntland" authorities, there are some indications that Al-Shabaab and other insurgent groups are active in the region, while issues such as clan affiliation and irregular salary payments continue to undermine the loyalty of local security forces.

13. In "Somaliland" the security situation has shown some improvement and, as a result, the security phase in some areas was downgraded to Security Phase Three in September 2010. Meanwhile, United Nations access remains limited in the disputed regions of Sool and Sanaag.

C. Piracy

14. On 27 October, I submitted my report on piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia pursuant to resolution 1897 (2009) (S/2010/556). On 23 November, the Security Council adopted resolution 1950 (2010), which renewed for a period of 12 months the authorization given to States and regional organizations cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia.

15. With the passing of the monsoon season, pirates have intensified their attacks on ships at sea. While the effectiveness of naval disruption operations has increased and more pirates have been arrested and prosecuted, as indicated in my report pursuant to Security Council resolution 1897 (2009) (S/2010/556), the level of violence employed by the pirates as well as their reach has increased. Reports from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) indicate that as of 30 November, 519 people and 22 vessels were being held hostage in Somalia.

16. The Second Regional Ministerial Conference on Piracy, held in Mauritius on 7 October 2010, adopted a regional strategy and a rolling regional plan of action that provides for a regional framework to prevent and combat piracy and promote maritime security.

17. As part of the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, IMO convened in November a subregional meeting to conclude agreements on the establishment of the Sana'a information-sharing centre and network. Together with the information-sharing centres in Mombasa, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, the centre in Sana'a will facilitate communication related to counter-piracy among States in the area of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and signatories to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, including Somalia.

18. On 10 November, following its seventh plenary meeting, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia stated its intention to hold an ad hoc meeting of experts to look into the financial aspects of piracy before the next plenary and agreed that the Gulf of Aden should remain the key focus of international

operations. The Contact Group also welcomed the effort by the United Nations to reinvigorate the Somali contact group on counter-piracy, also known as the "Kampala process".

19. The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has proved to be a useful instrument for supporting initiatives countering piracy. As of 22 November, the Trust Fund has supported seven projects in the areas of support to prosecution and communications, totalling $2.4 million.

20. On 15 October, the African Union Peace and Security Council urged the Security Council to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with the view to effectively addressing its underlying causes and other equally serious threats which affect the livelihood and well-being of the Somali people, in particular, illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia.

21. Since taking up his functions on 25 August, my Special Adviser on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Jack Lang, has met with a wide range of stakeholders, including in the region, to identify additional steps that can be taken to achieve and sustain substantive results in prosecuting piracy. I look forward to receiving Mr. Lang's recommendations at the conclusion of his mandate.

D. Humanitarian situation

22. There has been a marked, but fragile, improvement of the humanitarian situation in Somalia owing to two good rainy seasons and the resulting exceptionally high harvests. However, these tenuous improvements are threatened by dry weather conditions and an upsurge in conflict which started concurrently in August and continued to intensify until the end of the year.

23. The latest findings from the July to December 2010 assessment of the United Nations Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit revealed that nearly 2 million Somalis are in need of assistance. This represents a 25 per cent decrease in 2010 owing to the combination of a good harvest and a more accurate system of documenting internally displaced persons. The reporting period also saw an increase in cereal production, the highest in Somalia in 15 years, and improved conditions in the livestock sector. Notwithstanding the good harvest, 27 per cent of the population still faces a humanitarian crisis.

24. The national prevalence rate of malnourished children has reduced to 230,000 persons during the reporting period. Nearly 90 per cent of malnourished children are in the southern central regions where humanitarian access is the most challenging, although Boosaaso experiences the highest malnutrition rate in the country.

25. The number of civilians displaced and wounded in the conflict has increased, with more than 44,000 people displaced during the third quarter of the year and an additional 65,000 in the last quarter. Of the 54,000 people displaced from Mogadishu between August and November, 32,000 fled the city, and 22,000 relocated to relatively calmer areas of the city. In late October, clashes between Al-Shabaab and pro-government forces displaced thousands of people from Belet Hawo, many of whom crossed into Kenya.

26. Meanwhile, a revamped mapping process has enabled the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to revise the total number of internally displaced persons in Somalia from 1.41 million to 1.46 million. These figures take into account data on settlements within the Mogadishu periphery that was previously unavailable. The estimated number of internally displaced persons along the Afgooye corridor has increased to 410,000 persons, up from 366,000. In addition, eviction of internally displaced persons from privately owned sites in Afgooye continued, as landowners earn more from commercial use of the land than from rents extracted from internally displaced persons. On a much smaller scale, Hizbul-Islam has reportedly forcibly evicted internally displaced persons in Afgooye for military purposes.

27. In Mogadishu, the number of civilian casualties continues to increase. From September to November, approximately 1,600 weapon-related casualties, including 127 children under 5, were reported in Mogadishu. With the ongoing conflict in Mogadishu and southern central Somalia, health workers continue to face constraints in providing basic health services. On 22 August, a United Nations National Officer was shot and killed in Mogadishu by a stray bullet while on duty.

28. As of mid-November, the 2010 consolidated appeals process was 62 per cent funded, having received $367 million of $596 million required. However key lifesaving sectors, such as water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition remain under 50 per cent funded. Meanwhile, the 2011 consolidated appeal for Somalia was launched on 1 December, with total requirements of $532 million.

E. Human rights and protection of civilians

29. There was no improvement in the human rights situation in southern and central Somalia during the reporting period. High levels of civilian casualties arising from fighting in civilian areas in Mogadishu and parts of the central region continued. Hospitals reported being stretched to the limit and at times having difficulties coping with the flow of injured persons due to shelling and crossfire. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee protection cluster database recorded more than 1,000 killings in Mogadishu since January. The protection of civilians by all parties has increasingly become a focus of discussions. AMISOM and the African Union committed themselves to taking measures to prevent civilian casualties and to investigate allegations made against the troops at a special session of the Human Rights Council on Somalia in September and in meetings with United Nations officials.

30. On 27 October, two teenage girls, reported to be from 15 to 18 years of age, were publicly executed by Al-Shabaab in Beledweyne. They were accused of spying and were not subject to due process, in violation of international and regional human rights standards. Other reported cases of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment included at least four individuals accused of theft who had their hands amputated and several cases of whipping related to allegations of theft or failure to obey codes of behaviour imposed by Al-Shabaab.

31. Somali human rights defenders continued to face enormous constraints, challenges and threats in carrying out their work. At a meeting in September, human rights defenders from southern and central Somalia agreed to form a national coalition and began identifying capacity-building gaps and needs.

32. The media continued to be subjected to severe restrictions in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab and Hizbul-Islam. In September, Al-Shabaab and Hizbul-Islam, respectively, seized control of two independent radio stations, Horn of Africa and the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, in Mogadishu. Throughout the reporting period, multiple threats against reporters and journalists continued in southern central Somalia, forcing some to flee.

33. Internally displaced persons and refugees fleeing southern Somalia continued to report abuses by militias manning checkpoints before they reached safe areas, including rape, beatings and looting. Visits to settlements for internally displaced persons by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in September and by my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in November highlighted the continuing urgent need for extensive support for basic services and the need to address protection concerns. Threats of relocation were also causing anxiety among internally displaced persons in Boosaaso.

34. Collection of data on sexual violence remains a challenge owing mainly to underreporting. Gang rape, a relatively new phenomenon in Somalia, is occurring more often, including in "Puntland" and "Somaliland", with many cases taking place within settlements for internally displaced persons. Assessments conducted this year indicate that the most frequently recorded age group of survivors of sexual violence is 13 to 24 years of age. Female heads of household, women and girls with disabilities, and unaccompanied minors have been identified as the most vulnerable.

35. Reports of forcible repatriations to Mogadishu from Saudi Arabia continue, despite calls by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The number of documented cases increased in 2010 compared with 2009, with more than 4,000 people estimated to have been repatriated between July and October. In early November, UNHCR made an urgent appeal to the Kenyan authorities to immediately halt forcible returns of Somalis from the Mandera refugee camp after local authorities ordered the more than 8,000 refugees to cross back into Somalia. The refugees, comprising mainly women and children, are currently situated in a no-man's land between the Kenyan and Somali borders, with limited assistance provided by local residents and the humanitarian community.

36. In September, the Somali Deputy Prime Minister attended the special session of the Human Rights Council on Somalia, at which he committed to engage in the Council's Universal Periodic Review process. The "Puntland" administration has expressed its wish to collaborate with the Transitional Federal Government on its universal periodic review report. Prior to the Human Rights Council session on Somalia, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country for the first time. Meanwhile, the Act establishing the "Somaliland" Human Rights Commission was promulgated on 30 October.

F. Child protection

37. The recruitment and use of children for direct participation in hostilities in southern and central Somalia continues to be of major concern. Partners on the ground consistently reported extensive forced recruitment of children by Al-Shabaab, with an estimated 2,000 children being trained in camps in southern Somalia. There were also a few reported cases of children captured by the Government/AMISOM forces, as well as cases of children who defected.

38. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, visited Somalia and Kenya in November to assess progress made in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). During her visit, Ms. Coomaraswamy had discussions with the Transitional Federal Government, regional authorities in "Somaliland" and "Puntland", United Nations presences on the ground, as well as key protection partners. The Prime Minister committed to appoint a high-level focal point to work with the United Nations towards the development of an action plan to address the issue of child recruitment. The AMISOM Force Commander, in turn, agreed to an offer by the United Nations to support the developing of standard operating procedures on the handover and care arrangements for defecting and captured children.

39. During the reporting period, 27 children were reportedly killed and 68 maimed, mostly in Mogadishu, as a result of the hostilities. Eleven cases of rape and sexual violence against children committed by parties to the conflict were reported in southern central Somalia.

III. Resource mobilization

40. My Special Representative continues to engage with the international community on mobilizing resources for the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM. Since my last report, payments against confirmed Brussels pledges have increased to $150 million, thanks to an additional contribution of $500,000 from the Government of Turkey to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of AMISOM.

41. The European Union agreed to continue to provide financial support to AMISOM for the period from July to December 2010. In accordance with the present agreement, the European Union will provide an additional €47 million to the African Union, bringing total allocation to AMISOM to €142 million since 2007. The provisions cover personnel costs and operational running costs.

IV. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

A. International support

42. On 23 September, on the margins of the General Assembly, I convened a mini-summit on Somalia to galvanize international support and mobilize resources for the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM. President Sharif outlined the major security challenges his Government was facing and presented a list of actions his Government planned to undertake, which included enacting a constitution and promoting national unity. The President called for greater humanitarian assistance and support to address piracy through the development of security forces and the training of coast guards.

43. The International Contact Group on Somalia held its eighteenth meeting in Madrid on 27 and 28 September. My Special Representative co-chaired the meeting with the representatives of Norway and the United States of America. President Sharif opened the meeting, alongside the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain. Among other things, the meeting called on: the Transitional

Federal Government to develop a road map, within 60 days, outlining the management of the remaining transitional period; the transitional federal institutions to intensify efforts to complete the transitional tasks before 20 August 2011; and the Transitional Federal Government to increase its outreach and reconciliation towards groups and entities that remain outside the Djibouti peace process.

44. In a press statement issued on 8 October, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, announced the appointment of Jerry John Rawlings as the High Representative of the African Union for Somalia. This appointment was a follow-up to the decision on the report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Kampala in July 2010. The mandate of Mr. Rawlings is to mobilize support to promote peace and reconciliation in Somalia and to generate greater attention from the international community.

45. At its meeting on 15 October, the African Union Peace and Security Council considered the situation in Somalia, where it called for the speedy formation of a new government; the development of a road map for the management of the remaining transition period; and the completion of the outstanding transitional tasks, including the drafting of the constitution. The Council called on the Transitional Federal Government to urgently adopt the draft national security and stabilization plan and the recommendations of the Security Sector Assessment Report. It also requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, through his High Representative for Somalia, to broaden consultations with "Somaliland" and "Puntland", as part of the overall efforts to promote stability in those regions and further peace and reconciliation in Somalia as a whole.

46. From 15 to 18 November, an African Union-sponsored conference was held in Bujumbura to discuss African Union support to the implementation of the Djibouti Peace Process. The meeting called on the Transitional Federal Government to continue its reconciliation efforts and prioritize the conclusion of the constitution-making process, and called upon the international community to provide adequate and predictable resources to AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government.

B. Constitution-making process

47. The United Nations continued to support Somalia's efforts to draft a new constitution. Following the official launch in August of a broad-based popular consultation on the draft constitution, President Sharif requested that the process be put on hold pending his appointment of the National Advisory Council to review the draft. The 16-member Advisory Council, composed of independent Somali experts, was appointed in early November, and it will work with the United Nations and the Independent Federal Constitution Commission. Given the fast-approaching end of the transitional period, my Special Representative, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and the United Nations country team are engaged in efforts to facilitate a genuine, wide-ranging process of consultations in order to bring to conclusion the constitution-making process.

48. In this connection, the United Nations organized a Joint Strategic Planning Workshop in Nairobi in November, with the participation of the African Union, IGAD and the Independent Federal Constitution Commission. The workshop aimed at

articulating a shared vision among key actors on the way forward for the constitution-making process, including the development of a joint workplan for the support activities of UNPOS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

49. It is anticipated that the popular consultations will provide guidance on contentious issues, such as the system of government (whether presidential or parliamentary), federalism, gender equality in the Somali context, the status of Mogadishu as the capital of Somalia, the interpretation and application of sharia law, and the nature of the national security forces.

50. With the support of constitutional experts on women's rights in Islam, the United Nations facilitated a workshop for the gender audit of the draft constitution. Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Gender and Family Care of Somalia, members of the Independent Federal Constitution Commission, parliamentarians, and representatives of women's organizations from "Puntland", "Somaliland" and southern central Somalia, gathered in Nairobi to review the draft constitution from a gender perspective. A series of recommendations aimed at securing women's social and political rights were agreed and submitted to the Independent Federal Constitution Commission for incorporation into the final constitution.

C. Other activities

51. During the reporting period, UNDP provided tuition courses for 86 students from "Somaliland" and "Puntland" to enhance their capacities to manage public finances. The United Nations supported "Somaliland" in establishing the inter-ministerial Public Reform Committee established by "Somaliland" authorities in September. It also supported the efforts of the Civil Service Commission to establish the current human resource levels in every "Somaliland" ministry and to identify staffing needs for those institutions. The United Nations also collaborated with the Ministries of Commerce in "Puntland" and "Somaliland" to establish units to facilitate a conducive environment for foreign investment, formulate public-private partnership policies and assess the capacities of the private sector to generate long-term employment.

52. The United Nations is supporting the capacity development of the Ministries of Education of the Transitional Federal Government, "Somaliland" and "Puntland" to reform the education sector. The programme will contribute to building the capacity of the respective Ministries to effectively plan, manage and deliver educational services. With a view to helping establish working relations between the Transitional Federal Government and "Puntland" authorities on media issues, UNPOS organized a two-week seminar in Garoowe that was attended by high-ranking officials from the Transitional Federal Government and "Puntland".

V. Implementation of resolution 1910 (2010)

A. Establishment of the United Nations presence in Somalia and "light footprint" in Mogadishu

53. The United Nations continued to expand its footprint in Mogadishu, with 61 missions conducted by international staff from the United Nations Support Office

for the African Union Mission in Somalia, UNPOS, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, UNDP and the Department of Safety and Security during the reporting period. The average United Nations presence in "Somaliland" is 50 international and 400 national Staff.

54. With logistical support from UNSOA, UNPOS is in the process of establishing a forward liaison office in Mogadishu. A Head of Office and a Civil Affairs Officer have been recruited and will be deployed on a rotational basis, security permitting. Staff accommodation in Mogadishu remains limited, despite a recent increase in available space at the UNMAS compound and in the number of temporary slots.

55. UNPOS has been using office space, support services and staff accommodation facilities provided by the United Nations country team in Hargeysa and Garoowe, and UNSOA expects to complete the work on UNPOS facilities in both locations over the next few months. Meanwhile, roughly half of the international posts for the UNPOS regional offices in Hargeysa and Garoowe are encumbered. UNSOA has now started to deploy staff in these regions on short-term missions to support the establishment by UNPOS of a regional office.

B. Review of the strategy for Somalia and the United Nations coordinated approach

56. Consistent with the recommendations of the review mission conducted by the Somalia Integrated Task Force in June, the collaboration and coordination between UNPOS and the United Nations country team have steadily improved. A Senior Policy Group, comprising the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and the Director of UNSOA, was established in July and has been meeting regularly ever since. The Senior Policy Group provides strategic guidance to all United Nations presences in Somalia on political, security, development and humanitarian issues.

57. A Joint Planning Unit was also established in September to support the Senior Policy Group and foster the necessary linkages and coherence between UNPOS and the United Nations country team and make their collective efforts in Somalia more effective. The Joint Planning Unit has also initiated preparations for the integrated strategic framework process for Somalia, which is expected to start in early 2011.

58. The United Nations country team undertook further consultations on its assistance strategy for Somalia, which outlines the humanitarian, recovery and development assistance activities planned for 2011-2015. The assistance strategy builds on the United Nations transition plan (2008-2010) and is closely aligned with national priorities articulated in the Somalia reconstruction and development programme. The assistance strategy for Somalia will be reviewed at the end of the transition period, in August 2011.

59. Meanwhile, the Integrated Task Force review in June 2010 expressed the view that the United Nations incremental approach to the possible transition from AMISOM to a United Nations peacekeeping operation remained valid. The review recommended an adjustment to the benchmarks outlined in my report of 9 March

2009 (S/2009/132). The revised benchmarks are: (a) completion of the training and equipping of a cohesive Somali security force with clear and effective command and control, capable of stabilizing Mogadishu initially; (b) the stabilization of Mogadishu by the Transitional Federal Government forces; (c) successful building of alliances by the Transitional Federal Government with potential clan, religious and militia allies in Mogadishu and in the regions to which a potential peacekeeping operation would be deployed, to establish the foundation and political context for supporting the extension of the authority and control of the Transitional Federal Government beyond Mogadishu; (d) consent of the major actors in Mogadishu and in the respective regions of southern and central Somalia to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation; (e) attainment of AMISOM full strength before re-hatting; and (f) availability of adequate troops and military capabilities from troop-contributing countries.

C. Strengthening the political process

60. During their visit to the region in early September, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and my Special Representative extensively discussed the situation in Somalia with President Sharif in Mogadishu. Subsequently, my Special Representative travelled to Mogadishu on two occasions for meetings with President Sharif and government officials. He also visited "Puntland" and "Somaliland" where he met with the regional authorities and civil society organizations. Both regional leaders welcomed the presence of UNPOS.

61. My Special Representative intensified his consultations with regional stakeholders to continue garnering support for the peace process. These consultations included meetings with President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea in Asmara on 5 September and with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa on 13 September.

62. UNPOS, the African Union and IGAD have designed a joint regional strategy addressing Somalia's political, security and humanitarian challenges. The strategy aims at enhancing information exchange and coordination of their collective efforts to support the Transitional Federal Goverament. The strategy will also contribute to the implementation of the Gaalkacyo Agreement signed between the Transitional Federal Government and the "Puntland" authorities, and facilitate the implementation of the Kampala process.

D. Progress towards the full deployment and strengthening of AMISOM

63. Following the deployment of a fifth battalion from Uganda and a fourth battalion from Burundi, AMISOM reached its Security Council-mandated-strength of 8,000 troops during the reporting period. Meanwhile, the AMISOM police strength stands at 40 officers.

64. On 15 October, the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed the new AMISOM force strength of 20,000 troops, with the requisite air and maritime capabilities, in two phases: (a) initially, insert an additional 4,000 troops in Mogadishu; and (b) deploy an additional 8,000 troops in order to expand gradually to other areas of Somalia, in particular those areas controlled by groups allied to the

Transitional Federal Government. It also endorsed an enhanced civilian component and a police component of 1,680 personnel.

65. The African Union Peace and Security Council called on the United Nations Security Council: to endorse, inter alia, the revised concept of operations and newly authorized strength of AMISOM; to authorize an enhanced support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations assessed contributions, to be availed to the Mission both within and outside Somalia; to impose a naval blockade and no-fly zone over Somalia; to ensure the effective implementation of sanctions against those impeding peace; to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner; and to reaffirm its commitment to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hatting of AMISOM with a timeline for this deployment.

66. Noting the recommendations of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Security Council adopted resolution 1964 on 22 December 2010 which, inter alia, authorized the deployment of AMISOM until 30 September 2011, and requested that AMISOM increase its force strength from 8,000 troops to 12,000.

67. UNSOA continues to deliver a logistical support package to AMISOM. Notwithstanding the generous contributions of Member States, substantial resource gaps continue to have an adverse impact on AMISOM. The United Nations remains unable to reimburse troop contributors for contingent-owned equipment owing to donor caveats associated with contributions in the United Nations Trust Fund in support of AMISOM towards the military component of AMISOM. The lack of predictable and sufficient funding for AMISOM continues to undermine its ability to improve operational effectiveness and may discourage potential troop contributors.

68. UNSOA continued to improve the living conditions of AMISOM troops in Nairobi and bases in Somalia. In Mogadishu, it has erected prefabricated accommodation and other facilities, as well as perimeter security installations. Significant progress was made in building accommodation and other support facilities to accommodate additional AMISOM personnel.

69. The facilities to accommodate AMISOM civilian personnel in Mogadishu were built in conformity with United Nations standards for military forces. However, the current range of United Nations facilities in Mogadishu does not meet minimum operating security standards. Meanwhile, planning for the construction of the minimum operating security standards-compliant permanent headquarters of AMISOM and the level-II hospital commenced during the reporting period.

70. UNSOA continues to provide a sea movement-based supply chain to deliver required supplies and equipment to AMISOM, with some 5,500 cubic metres of material shipped monthly. During the reporting period, UNSOA provided over 60 medical evacuation flights from Mogadishu to Nairobi and South Africa for injured AMISOM personnel. UNSOA has also implemented a comprehensive communications campaign aimed at improving public and media perceptions of AMISOM and the transitional federal institutions, including through a media outreach facility in Mogadishu that also functions as a permanent "forward" team fully integrated with AMISOM.

71. Meanwhile, the newly established United Nations Office to the African Union continued to advise and assist the African Union Commission in planning and managing AMISOM operations.

72. Through engagement with AMISOM troop-contributing countries, including predeployment inspection visits, the United Nations is supporting the efforts of the African Union to prevent and minimize civilian casualties during operations on the ground. In this regard, the African Union Peace and Security Council encouraged the mainstreaming of the draft African Union Guidelines for the Protection of Civilians in Peace Support Missions into the activities of AMISOM.

73. In 2010, casualties to AMISOM personnel related to improvised explosive devices fell more than 90 per cent compared with 2009 levels. Since 1 September, AMISOM destroyed 4,943 items of unexploded ordnance and small arms ammunition, three antipersonnel mines and 43 antitank mines with United Nations mentoring and support.

E. Strengthening of the Somali security institutions and development of a national security strategy

Policy and coordination

74. The United Nations is working on a security sector development strategy which will encompass sector-specific components on security, justice and the rule of law, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. At the same time, UNPOS will continue to build the capacity of the Joint Security Committee as the main strategic, technical and decision-making body which guides and coordinates the development of Somalia's security sector institutions. UNPOS plans to strengthen the Committee's technical working groups and provide support for the establishment of a Joint Security Committee coordinating secretariat. In addition to the existing military and police technical working groups, the Joint Security Committee has proposed the establishment of a strategic planning and programming technical working group and a justice and corrections technical working group under its directive and oversight. UNPOS is taking the lead in drafting the terms of reference for these new working groups, to be presented to the Joint Security Committee at its next meeting. A piracy task force will also be established under the Joint Security Committee.

75. In this connection, UNPOS briefed the new Cabinet of the Transitional Federal Government on the mission's priority tasks for security sector development for the remaining transitional period. UNPOS is dedicated to providing five core services in the security and justice sector in Somalia: (a) offer strategic advisory support; (b) facilitate and coordinate international assistance; (c) advocate and step up resource mobilization through the Somali Security Sector Institutions Trust Fund; (d) strengthen effective partnerships and synergies with AMISOM, IGAD, the European Union, relevant bilateral organizations, civil society and parliament; and, finally, (e) track and monitor progress in security and justice sector development consistent with the Somali peace process. On 8 December, the UNPOS police unit organized jointly with AMISOM a meeting of the Police Technical Working Group to discuss with the Transitional Federal Government Minister of Defence and key donors in Nairobi the capacity-building needs of Somalia police, including stipend payments.

Military

76. UNPOS continued to assist the Transitional Federal Government in the development of its armed forces in line with the Somali National Security Strategy. Through the Joint Security Committee, the Military Technical Working Group and key stakeholders meetings, UNPOS continues to focus on establishing specialized and basic training for the National Security Force inside Somalia under the framework of the National Security Stabilization Plan. To this end, with support from the international community, efforts continue to rebuild the infrastructure for basic training in the Al-Jazzira training camp in Mogadishu.

77. During the reporting period, UNPOS continued to facilitate the Military Technical Working Group. This is done through tracking and monitoring of the implementation of the decisions of the Joint Security Committee based on priorities outlined in the strategic military working group plan of the Committee. A number of important challenges still remain in building the National Security Forces of Somalia. These challenges include military integration, sustaining stipend payments, handling of child soldiers and coordinating international advisory and training support to Somalia National Security Forces.

Police

78. The United Nations continued to support the development of a professional and accountable police force for Mogadishu. In September, jointly with the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum, UNDP conducted training for the Mogadishu-based Police Advisory Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, to increase their understanding of police oversight, human rights and policing standards.

79. During the reporting period, 60 officers, 10 per cent of whom were women, attended a mid-level officer training course conducted jointly by the Uganda Police Force and UNDP in Kampala. The training focused on managerial aspects of policing, including financial management, procurement, asset management, human resources, training management, logistics and fleet management.

80. During the month of November, UNPOS, with funding from the Government of Japan, and in partnership with the AMISOM Civilian Police Unit and the Somalia Police Force Directorate, commenced a three-month training programme in basic policing for 501 new Somalia Police Force recruits in Djibouti at the National Police Academy, 25 per cent of whom were women. The main objective was to improve the professional skills and abilities of the Somalia Police Force based on international best practices.

81. The Joint Security Committee Police Technical Working Group continued to hold meetings to follow up on the Committee's decisions and directives. At the meeting on 16 September 2010, it was agreed that UNDP and UNPOS would harmonize stipend payments to the Somalia Police Force through a monitoring system, in close collaboration with the Somalia Police Force. The meeting also recommended the need to elaborate clear organizational change management structure for the Somalia Police Force. Meanwhile, UNDP renewed its letter of agreement with the Somalia Police Force to provide ongoing support for the running costs of key police facilities, thus allowing trained police officers to carry out their responsibilities.

Mine action

82. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to support the Transitional Federal Government in the development of an explosive ordnance recognition and awareness capacity for mines and explosive remnants of war. This included ongoing recognition training and a four-day first aid course for 57 personnel. In cooperation with the Ugandan explosive ordnance disposal teams, the Government teams destroyed 79 items of unexploded ordnance in Mogadishu. A total of 20 police personnel completed a landmine and explosive threat awareness training-of-trainers course.

Justice and corrections

83. During the reporting period, UNPOS initiated a planning process for the establishment of a correction, justice and rule of law unit to strengthen the criminal justice and correction system throughout Somalia. This unit will support the transitional federal institutions to formulate policies and enforce laws and regulations related to criminal offences. In addition, UNPOS has drafted terms of reference for the establishment of a justice and corrections working group under the Joint Security Committee to discuss, analyse and monitor the implementation of international assistance to improve justice and the rule of law in Somalia. Meanwhile, UNPOS has developed terms of reference for the review of Somalia's justice and corrections system, to be carried out in the first quarter of 2011.

84. The United Nations-assisted legal aid services continue to operate throughout Somalia. In Mogadishu, 139 persons were provided with legal services, leading to the acquittal and release of 49 persons from detention, including internally displaced persons and minority group members detained in Mogadishu Central Prison or in police custody. By the end of September, the UNDP-supported "Puntland" State University had concluded a six-month training programme for 25 serving judges, support staff and prosecutors, including 17 newly appointed judges, while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported the drafting of laws on anti-piracy and transfer of prisoners. Also during the reporting period, a code of conduct for lawyers, judges, prosecutors and notaries public was approved by the Higher Judicial Council in "Puntland".

85. Prison conditions remained harsh and life-threatening throughout the country. Detainees' families and clans are expected to pay the costs of detention. The United Nations completed the rehabilitation of Hargeysa prison to international standards and reintroduced prison uniforms after a 30-year absence. A total of 162 custodial staff in "Puntland" and 200 correctional staff in "Somaliland" received training developed by the United Nations.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

86. In the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, UNPOS is seeking additional expertise in order to support the Transitional Federal Government to develop a coordinated response to the issue of transitional fighters/defectors in collaboration with AMISOM and other implementing organizations. Meanwhile, UNPOS is also exploring options for establishing a database system for the collection, analysis and management of information as a part of its planning activities for ongoing mediation efforts and for a future disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Following decisions taken by the Joint

Security Committee, a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration task force will be established under the Joint Security Committee strategic planning and programming working group.

F. Humanitarian and recovery and development activities

87. In September, the polio national immunization days campaign was launched in Mogadishu. Training in Gaalkacyo and Mogadishu was provided to United Nations partners who distributed vaccines to 79 cold chain facilities. There has not been a case of polio recorded in Somalia since March 2007.

88. From September to the end of November 2010, the child health days reached approximately 650,000 children under 5 and over 340,000 women of childbearing age. Meanwhile, primary health-care services were accessible within 1.5 kms from settlements for internally displaced persons along the Afgooye corridor. Key hospitals were supported to provide emergency services, including comprehensive emergency obstetric care in seven regions of southern and central Somalia, with training provided to 1,100 health workers. Essential medicines, vaccines and basic equipment were provided to a network of 800 health posts and maternal and child health clinics throughout Somalia, serving 2.5 million people.

89. In Mogadishu, WFP provided 520,000 people with regular food assistance. In the light of the general increased availability of cereals in southern central Somalia, WFP has scaled back its programming in Mogadishu as of October with a focus on wet-feeding, targeted supplementary feeding and relief programmes for internally displaced persons, benefiting 270,000 people.

90. The United Nations and partners continued to cover gaps in the management of malnutrition treatment resulting from the ongoing suspension of WFP activity in southern central Somalia. Coverage remained at 60 per cent of all affected children. By the end of September, approximately 138,000 children were admitted to malnutrition centres in central and southern Somalia, with 80,000 children benefiting from increased access to monthly supplementary feeding centres. In addition, basic nutrition service packages were provided to over 500 nutrition centres countrywide.

91. The United Nations continued to provide chlorinated water to over 480,000 internally displaced persons and urban communities living in Afgooye and Mogadishu. Pre-positioning of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies as a preparedness measure towards cholera outbreaks was carried out in Gedo, Bay, and Juba Dhexe and Juba Hoose regions.

92. The United Nations distributed over 18,500 textbooks in Bay and Bakool regions, benefiting 23,653 children, 8,013 of which were girls. The construction of 14 classrooms in the settlements for internally displaced persons in Boosaaso was completed, providing access to 1,120 children. Additionally, the United Nations constructed 36 traditional classrooms with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in 20 schools hosting internally displaced persons in southern central Somalia, providing child-friendly learning spaces for 4,633 schoolchildren, 1,536 of them girls. Meanwhile, access to education was provided through emergency schools for 76,000 school-age children in Mogadishu and the Afgooye corridor.

93. Over 96,000 people were reached with mine awareness messages throughout Somalia. The United Nations Mine Action Service also provided mine/explosive threat awareness training for 26 local and international non-governmental organizations in Mogadishu and the Afgooye corridor. Humanitarian mine action actors destroyed 17 anti-personnel mines, 41 antitank mines and 5,586 items of unexploded ordnance and small arms ammunition throughout Somalia since 1 September.

94. In an effort to build the capacity of local governments to deliver services, capacity assessments were completed for the administrations of Benadir, Mogadishu city, and the Transitional Federal Government Ministry of Interior. A series of rehabilitation works were completed, including three schools, two medical facilities, two markets, a vocational centre for women, a sports ground and a district office in six districts of Mogadishu. Work on all the 2009 priority projects in "Somaliland" and "Puntland" was completed in October, benefiting over 139,000 people.

95. The United Nations continued to improve the food security of the Somali population. Over the past three months, seeds and fertilizer were distributed in southern Somalia; 4,600 farmers were trained in agricultural practices and approximately 1.2 million animals were vaccinated or received treatment. In "Somaliland" and "Puntland", 13 line ministries were trained on water systems management, while 155 kms of canals were completed in southern Somalia. In addition, nine markets and two slaughterhouses were completed. In southern central Somalia, the United Nations is implementing over 13 community-based projects, providing 23,000 people (42 per cent of whom are women) with short-term employment.

VI. Observations/recommendations

96. I welcome the appointment of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed as the new Prime Minister of Somalia, as well as the appointment of the new Cabinet. I urge the transitional federal institutions to now focus on completing the constitution-drafting process in an inclusive manner and meeting the targets for the political transition that is scheduled to end in August 2011. In addition to the inclusion of Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a in the peace process and in the Cabinet, I urge the Transitional Federal Government to step up its efforts to convince other opposition groups to lay down their arms and work for peace.

97. Foreign fighters and other spoilers who benefit from the anarchy in Somalia continue to pose a serious threat to peace and stability in the country. I urge Member States to continue to cooperate with the United Nations, IGAD and other regional organizations in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1907 (2009), which imposed sanctions on those who undermine peace efforts.

98. Security remains the single most critical challenge confronting the transitional federal institutions. The presence of foreign extremist fighters in Somalia is a constant reminder of the high risk that the Horn of Africa is rapidly becoming the next front in global efforts against international terrorism. I therefore appeal to the international community to provide urgent military, financial, logistical and other support to the Transitional Federal Government, as well as to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union in their efforts to address the situation in Somalia.

99. I acknowledge the important role which the African Union, IGAD and AMISOM continue to play towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia. In this regard, I pay special tribute to the AMISOM troop-contributing countries, Burundi and Uganda, especially for the great courage and determination of the troops in a very difficult and dangerous environment. The immense sacrifices which AMISOM and the troop-contributing countries are making in Somalia should inspire the broader international community to do more to help bring about peace and stability in that country.

100. In my last report, I stated that substantial resource gaps affecting AMISOM continue to have an adverse impact on its effectiveness and to possibly discourage potential troop contributors. I welcome the decision of the Security Council on 22 December to approve an increase in the troop level for AMISOM from 8,000 to 12,000, as requested by the African Union and IGAD. I urge that consideration be given to the upgrade of the support package to AMISOM to match the standards of the support provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

101. I acknowledge the call from the African Union Peace and Security Council to the Security Council to reaffirm its commitment to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hatting of AMISOM and to urgently establish a timeline for this deployment. While this is still a valid approach, it is important to adhere to the benchmarks outlined in this report before setting timelines. It would therefore be useful for the United Nations, the African Union, IGAD, the European Union and key partners contributing to the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia to jointly conduct regular assessments of the situation on the ground and progress towards attainment of the adjusted benchmarks for an incremental approach to the possible transition from AMISOM to a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

102. I remain deeply concerned about the impact of the conflict on civilians and call on all parties to ensure their protection and remind them of their responsibility to protect. I condemn the launching of attacks by extremists from populated areas and demand an end to these attacks. I also call on all parties to the conflict to respect humanitarian principles and allow the delivery of assistance to populations most in need. I call on the donor community to continue their critical support to the people of Somalia.

103. I reiterate my commitment to ensuring the maximum coordination of United Nations efforts on Somalia, in line with my policy of integration of United Nations operations. I intend to prepare proposals for an integrated United Nations presence for the review by the Security Council in the next few months.

104. Finally, I express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative for his dedication and commitment to advancing the cause of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. I also pay tribute to the men and women serving in the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as well as to members of the non-governmental humanitarian community, who continue to operate under difficult conditions. I call upon the people of Somalia and the international community to continue to render support to my Special Representative and his Office. Most of all, I call on all Somalis to take advantage of the presence of AMISOM, the United Nations and other international efforts in assisting the Transitional Federal Government to stabilize and rebuild the country.

United Nations A/65/677–S/2010/676

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 29 December 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the letter of the representative of Azerbaijan circulated on 21 December 2010 (A/65/601–S/2010/615). It represents, once again, an example of an ongoing, unacceptable smear campaign by Azerbaijan against my country.

By spreading totally groundless information and scenarios authorized by its Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Azerbaijani representative to the United Nations hinders the proceedings of the annual session of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

It is truly disappointing that, given the important agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which should be the main focus, the Azerbaijani side instead continues to abuse its privilege of being a Member State of the United Nations by using every opportunity presented to it as such to falsely and unabashedly discredit Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

Although responding to the above-mentioned letter, the conclusions and falsity of which are simply preposterous, may give it credence, I find it necessary to note that this circulated propaganda paper amounts to a highly irresponsible attempt at the State level to undermine the ongoing mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs to find a comprehensive and lasting solution for the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

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In contradiction of the spirit of the Minsk Group negotiation process, as well as contrary to basic international documents such as the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, the Azerbaijani Government, the President himself and his representatives for a long time have been developing and implementing a large-scale propaganda campaign against Armenia and Armenians. Such behaviour of the Azerbaijani authorities creates a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

Armenia, along with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, continues to be alarmed by the growing wave of the Azerbaijani incursions across the Nagorno Karabakh-Azerbaijan line of contact and its ceasefire violations throughout 2010, resulting in tragic and unnecessary loss of life of both Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers. Numerous deliberate provocations on the line of contact this year serve as concrete examples of Azerbaijan's insistence on seeking militaristic ways to deal with the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan continues to reject calls from the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the United Nations Secretary-General (the most recent made on the sidelines of the OSCE Summit in Astana on 1 December 2010) for the removal of snipers from the line of contact.

In this context, upon instructions from my Government, I draw your attention to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, as recorded for the months of November and December 2010 (see annex). Such actions by Azerbaijan put in question its commitment to its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Karine **Khoudaverdian**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

10-71230

Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 1 November to 1 December 2010

No.	*Direction*	*Date, time*	*Firing from Azerbaijani side*	
			Type of weapon	*Ammunition*
1.	Dovekh	03.11.10 23.00	Firearm	3
2.	Sevakavan	04.11.10 11.35	Firearm	30
3.	Laligyugh	05.11.10 15.00	Machine gun 12.7 mm	1
4.	Laligyugh	05.11.10 19.30	Firearm	3
5.	Laligyugh	05.11.10 22.40	Firearm	25
6.	Vazashen	06.11.10 14.15	Firearm	1
7.	Sevakavan	07.11.10 22.35	Firearm	5
8.	Bardzruni	07.11.10 23.15	PK	15
9.	Bardzruni	08.11.10 00.15	PK	5
10.	Movses	09.11.10 23.45	Firearm	7
11.	Bardzruni	09.11.10 19.15	Firearm	6
12.	Dovekh	12.11.10 19.30	Firearm	3
13.	Agarak	13.11.10 17.30	Firearm	4
14.	Agarak	13.11.10 17.30	SVD	1

No.	Direction	Date, time	Firing from Azerbaijani side	
			Type of weapon	Ammunition
15.	Berdavan	14.11.10 21.25	Firearm	5
16.	Kuris	14.11.10 12.30	Firearm	9
17.	Agarak	15.11.10 15.00	Firearm	3
18.	Agarak	15.11.10 16.10	Firearm	2
19.	Agarak	17.11.10 10.30	Firearm	6
20.	Agarak	17.11.10 14.40	Firearm	25
21.	Shavarshavan	18.11.10 21.35	Firearm	30
22.	Nerqin Karmiraxbyur	20.11.10 13.30	Firearm	5
23.	Bardzruni	21.11.10 15.00	SVD	3
24.	Agarak	22.11.10 17.25	Firearm	1
25.	Laligyugh	23.11.10 22.00	Firearm	6
26.	Laligyugh	23.11.10 22.00	SVD	4
27.	Aygehovit	23.11.10 23.25	Firearm	25
28.	Lehvaz	23.11.10 08.00	Firearm	30
29.	Agarak	24.11.10 12.00	Firearm	6
30.	Agarak	24.11.10 21.00	Firearm	17
31.	Dovekh	26.11.10 10.55	Firearm	4

No.	Direction	Date, time	Firing from Azerbaijani side: Type of weapon	Ammunition
32.	Barekamavan	28.11.10 15.40	Firearm	10
33.	Vazashen	29.11.10 22.00	Firearm	70
34.	Barekamavan	29.11.10 13.05	RPK	2
35.	Barekamavan	29.11.10 15.25	SVD	5
36.	Bardzruni	29.11.10 21.00	SVD	2
37.	Bardzruni	29.11.10 21.00	Firearm	4
38.	Bardzruni	29.11.10 21.25	Firearm	20
39.	Bardzruni	29.11.10 21.25	Sniper weapon 12.7 mm	1
40.	Chinari	30.11.10 11.20	SVD	8
41.	Barekamavan	30.11.10 14.25	Firearm	10

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Armenia from 1 November to 1 December 2010:

Number of violations: 41
Shots: about 422

PK – (20), SVD — (23), machine gun 12.7 mm — (1), AK – (375), RPK 5.45 mm – (2), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (1)

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Nagorno Karabakh from 1 November to 1 December 2010:

Number of violations: 195
Shots: about 1,286

RPG-7 — (8), PK – (35), RPK 5.45 mm – (56), SVD — (102), machine gun 12.7 mm – (25), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (1), UTYOS-12.7 mm – (11), NSVT — (20), AK – (1,028)

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 1 December to 26 December 2010

			Firing from Azerbaijani side	
No.	*Direction*	*Date, time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
42.	Berdavan	01.12.10 10.40	AK	3
43.	Khndzorut	01.12.10 11.35	AK	1
44.	Bardzruni	01.12.10 16.45	SV-12.7 mm	1
45.	Chinari	03.12.10 23.25	AK	30
46.	Bardzruni	06.12.10 21.30-22.00	AK	60
47.	Bardzruni	06.12.10 21.30-22.00	SV-12.7 mm	21
48.	Bardzruni	06.12.10 21.30-22.00	SVD	3
49.	Barekamavan	07.12.10 17.55	SV-12.7 mm	2
50.	Bardzruni	07.12.10 09.55	SVD	3
51.	Bardzruni	07.12.10 09.55	RPK	15
52.	Bardzruni	07.12.10 13.50	SVD	4
53.	Bardzruni	07.12.10 13.50	AK	30
54.	Bardzruni	07.12.10 13.50	SV-12.7 mm	1
55.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 11.30	SV-12.7 mm	12
56.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 11.30	PK	17
57.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 11.30	AK	12

No.	Direction	Date, time	Firing from Azerbaijani side	
			Type of weapon	Ammunition
58.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 14.40	SV-12.7 mm	3
59.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 14.40	PK	16
60.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 14.40	SVD	6
61.	Bakhanis	08.12.10 17.20	RPK	1
62.	Barekamavan	08.12.10 20.35	AK	3
63.	Berqaber	09.12.10 11.30	PK	15
64.	Berqaber	09.12.10 12.00	Machine gun 12.7 mm	5
65.	Berqaber	09.12.10 12.00	PK	10
66.	Berqaber	09.12.10 12.00	AK	15
67.	Bardzruni	10.12.10 02.15	SVD	2
68.	Berdavan	10.12.10 13.30	PK	15
69.	Voskevan	12.12.10 12.00	AK	6
70.	Vazashen	13.12.10 23.30	AK	2
71.	Vazashen	13.12.10 23.30	AK	12
72.	Barekamavan	13.12.10 14.50	SV-12.7 mm	11
73.	Agarak	13.12.10 20.00	AK	4
74.	Vazashen	15.12.10 17.00	SVD	4

No.	Direction	Date, time	Firing from Azerbaijani side	
			Type of weapon	Ammunition
75.	Aygepar	17.12.10 00.10	AK	4
76.	Vazashen	16.12.10 10.40	AK	6
77.	Voskepar	16.12.10 14.40	Machine gun 12.7 mm	2
78.	Voskepar	16.12.10 14.40	PK	15
79.	Agarak	16.12.10 16.00	AK	4
80.	Agarak	16.12.10 22.15	AK	7
81.	Vazashen	17.12.10 15.25	AK	25
82.	Laligyugh	17.12.10 20.15	AK	10
83.	Khndzorut	19.12.10 17.10	AK	2
84.	Khndzorut	19.12.10 17.10	SVD	1
85.	Nerqin Karmirakhbyur	20.12.10 04.10	AK	4
86.	Voskevan	20.12.10 13.40	AK	1
87.	Voskevan	20.12.10 17.15	AK	5
88.	Berdavan	20.12.10 19.40	AK	3
89.	Agarak	20.12.10 19.30	AK	2
90.	Agarak	20.12.10 21.25	AK	3
91.	Agarak	20.12.10 21.45	SVD	1

No.	Direction	Date, time	Firing from Azerbaijani side	
			Type of weapon	Ammunition
92.	Agarak	21.12.10 17.15	AK	20
93.	Berdavan	26.12.10 17.30	PK	4

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Armenia from 1 December to 26 December 2010:

Number of violations: 52
Shots: about 464

PK ~ (92), SVD — (24), machine gun 12.7 mm — (7), AK ~ (274), RPK 5.45 mm ~ (16), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (51)

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Nagorno Karabakh from 1 December to 27 December 2010:

Number of violations: 354
Shots: about 2,078

RPG-7 — (2), PK ~ (186), RPK 5.45 mm ~ (93), SVD — (180), machine gun 12.7 mm ~ (15), sniper weapon 12.7 mm — (9), UTYOS-12.7 mm ~ (13), AK ~ (1,580).

United Nations S/2010/677

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 22 December 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my report of 30 November 2010 (S/2010/608) to the Security Council on the situation in Burundi and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), in which I proposed the establishment of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) to succeed BINUB, starting 1 January 2011. Subsequently, in its resolution 1959 (2010), the Council approved the establishment of BNUB until 31 December 2011.

With the end of the mandate of BINUB and the departure of my Executive Representative Charles Petrie on 31 December 2010, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint Ms. Karin Landgren (Sweden) as my Special Representative in Burundi and Head of BNUB.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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United Nations S/2010/678

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 30 December 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 22 December 2010 (S/2010/677) concerning your intention to appoint Ms. Karin Landgren (Sweden) as your Special Representative in Burundi and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council, who take note of the intention contained therein.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**
President of the Security Council

10-71253 (E) 301210

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United Nations S/2010/679

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 30 December 2010 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan (see annex), which covers the Committee's activities during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010. The report is submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010.

2. During this period, the Bureau consisted of Thomas Mayr-Harting (Austria) as Chairman, with the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mexico providing the Vice-Chairmen. In 2010, the Committee held eight informal consultations. The web page of the Committee is available from http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1591.

II. Background information and activities of the Committee

A. Background information

3. By its resolution 1556 (2004), the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in the states of Northern Darfur, Southern Darfur and Western Darfur in the Sudan.

4. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Council broadened the scope of the arms embargo, with immediate effect, to include all the parties to the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and any other belligerents in the states of Northern Darfur, Southern Darfur and Western Darfur. By the same resolution, the Council established a Committee to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo and the two additional measures imposed by the resolution, namely, a travel ban and an assets freeze on those individuals designated by the Committee on the basis of the criteria contained in the resolution. The travel ban and the assets freeze entered into effect on 29 April 2005.

5. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Council also established, for a period of six months, a four-member Panel of Experts to assist the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze, to report to the Council through the Committee with its findings and recommendations, and to coordinate its activities as appropriate with ongoing operations of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). Under the same resolution, the Panel of Experts was also identified as a source of information regarding individuals who might be designated by the Committee as subject to the targeted sanctions.

6. By its resolution 1945 (2010), the Council strengthened the enforcement of the arms embargo by clarifying the exceptions to that measure and by making the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to the Sudan not prohibited by the embargo contingent upon the necessary end-user documentation. The Council also expressed its intention, following the midterm report of the Panel of Experts that it requested no later than 31 March 2011, to review the state of implementation, including obstacles to full and effective implementation of the measures imposed in resolution 1591 (2005), with a view to ensuring full compliance.

7. The mandate of the Panel of Experts has been extended seven times, by Security Council resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), 1713 (2006), 1779 (2007), 1841 (2008), 1891 (2009) and 1945 (2010). The current extension expires on 19 October 2011. In resolution 1713 (2006), the Council authorized the addition of a fifth expert to enable the Panel to better carry out its mission. In its resolutions 1779 (2007), 1841 (2008), 1891 (2009) and 1945 (2010), the Council also requested the Panel to coordinate its activities as appropriate with the operations of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which succeeded AMIS, and with international efforts to promote the political process in Darfur. In addition, in the same resolutions, the Council requested the Panel to assess in its interim and final reports progress towards reducing violations by all parties of the arms embargo, the travel ban and the assets freeze; progress towards removing impediments to the political process and threats to stability in Darfur and the region; and progress towards reducing other violations of resolutions 1556 (2004) and 1591 (2005). In resolution 1945 (2010), in the aforementioned context, the Council also referred to violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities, including sexual- and gender-based violence. Following each extension, the Secretary-General has appointed individuals to serve on the Panel.[1]

8. In the course of its mandate and in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Panel of Experts submitted and/or presented 10 written interim/progress reports, dated 7 October 2005, 15 July 2006, 16 March 2007, 2 July 2007, 27 March 2008, 11 August 2008, 2 March 2009, 25 May 2009, 15 March 2010 and 24 May 2010; and three midterm reports, dated 14 May 2008, 30 April 2009 and 2 July 2010. The Panel also submitted and presented, at the end of each mandate, seven final reports to the Committee, which were subsequently transmitted by the Chairman to the President of the Council.[2]

9. By its resolution 1672 (2006), the Council designated four individuals as subject to the travel ban and assets freeze imposed by resolution 1591 (2005).

10. By its resolution 1679 (2006), the Council expressed its intention to consider taking, including in response to a request by the African Union, strong and effective measures, such as a travel ban and assets freeze, against any individual or group that violated or attempted to block the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

11. By its resolution 1769 (2007), the Council decided that UNAMID would monitor whether any arms or related material were present in Darfur in violation of the Agreements and the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2004). Resolution 1935 (2010) also referred explicitly to the aspect of the UNAMID mandate relating to the monitoring of the arms embargo.

12. By a presidential statement dated 24 October 2007 (S/PRST/2007/41), the Council called on all parties to attend and to engage fully and constructively in the talks in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and, as a first step, to urgently agree and implement a cessation of hostilities to be overseen by the United Nations and the African Union. The Council underlined its willingness to take action against any

[1] See S/2005/428, S/2006/23, S/2006/99, S/2006/301, S/2006/926, S/2007/706, S/2008/743, S/2009/639 and S/2010/140.

[2] The first six reports have been published (see S/2006/65, S/2006/250, S/2006/795, S/2007/584, S/2008/647 and S/2009/562). The final report prepared pursuant to resolution 1891 (2009) is forthcoming, pending adoption by the Council.

party that sought to undermine the peace process, including by failing to respect such a cessation of hostilities or by impeding the talks, peacekeeping or humanitarian aid.

13. By a presidential statement of 11 January 2008 (S/PRST/2008/1), the Council expressed its readiness to take action against any party that impeded the peace process, humanitarian aid or the deployment of UNAMID. The Council also recognized that due process had to take its course.

14. By a presidential statement of 16 July 2008 (S/PRST/2008/27), the Council underlined its determination to take action against those responsible for the attack on 8 July 2008 on a UNAMID military and police convoy, after hearing the outcome of the UNAMID investigation into the attack.

15. By its resolution 1828 (2008), the Council reiterated its readiness to take action against any party that impeded the peace process, humanitarian assistance or the deployment of UNAMID and recognized that due process had to take its course.

16. By a presidential statement of 16 November 2010 (S/PRST/2010/24), the Council expressed its willingness to consider measures against any party whose actions undermined peace in Darfur. This was reiterated in a presidential statement of 16 December 2010 (S/PRST/2010/28).

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

17. During the period under review, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1891 (2009), in which the Council encouraged all States, in particular those in the region, to report to the Committee on the actions they had taken to implement measures imposed by resolutions 1591 (2005) and 1556 (2004), the Committee received reports from 11 Member States. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1945 (2010), in which the Council urged such reporting, including on the imposition of targeted measures, the Committee has to date received a report from one Member State. All the reports are available on the Committee's web page.

18. In informal consultations on 12 January 2010, the Committee met the new Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to resolution 1891 (2009) and discussed the Panel's reporting timelines.

19. In informal consultations on 29 March 2010, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts of its interim report. In addition to presenting its preliminary findings, the Panel reported on the level of cooperation extended to it by the Governments of Chad and the Sudan. The Panel also requested the Committee's guidance on the scope of the arms embargo.

20. In informal consultations on 24 May 2010, in continuation of its dialogue with UNAMID, the Committee met with the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Ibrahim Gambari. Subsequently, in its resolution 1945 (2010) of 14 October, the Council welcomed the enhanced cooperation and information sharing between UNAMID and the Panel of Experts facilitated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' guidelines and the decision of UNAMID to establish a focal point to facilitate information sharing with the Panel regarding the arms embargo. At the same meeting, the Chairman briefed the Committee on his bilateral meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, which was held

to follow up on requests for information in the four areas set out in recommendation No. 1 of the 2009 final report of the Panel (S/2009/562, para. 367).

21. In informal consultations on 7 June 2010, the Committee heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the Global Compact, Georg Kell. The briefing was organized as a follow-up to recommendation No. 3 of the aforementioned report of the Panel of Experts, which pertains to enhancing due diligence for corporations whose products and services potentially affect the conflict in Darfur. Mr. Kell clarified that the Global Compact network for the Sudan focused on community investment and access to water and the environment, and had limited linkages to Darfur. He highlighted that the Global Compact was launching a new guidance document on responsible conduct of business in conflict-affected and high-risk areas, which, inter alia, referred to the need for companies to ensure compliance and respect for Security Council resolutions, typically on sanctions, and would help in creating awareness of such measures. In its resolution 1945 (2010) of 14 October, the Council welcomed the Committee's work, which it noted had drawn on the reports of the Panel of Experts and taken advantage of the work done in other forums to draw attention to the responsibilities of private sector actors in areas affected by conflict. At the same meeting, the Committee considered a progress report submitted by the Panel.

22. By a letter dated 28 June 2010, addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, the Chairman sought further details and clarification on various aspects of the implementation of the arms embargo by the Sudan. No response was received.

23. In informal consultations on 7 July 2010, the Committee heard a midterm briefing by the Panel of Experts. The briefing was accompanied by a written report. In addition to presenting its findings, the Panel highlighted problems of access in Darfur. The Panel had received authorization from the Government of the Sudan to visit four of six locations of interest; however, owing to security considerations and the logistical requirements of both the Government of the Sudan and UNAMID, the Panel had not yet been able to visit them. The Panel also noted that a party to armed conflict had continued to refuse to cooperate with the Panel. Some members of the Committee shared with the Panel their view of the scope of the arms embargo.

24. In informal consultations on 4 October 2010, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts of its final report and the confidential annex to that report, dated 20 and 29 September, respectively. Several of the recommendations contained in the report were taken up either by the Council in resolution 1945 (2010) or by the Committee in its subsequent informal consultations. On 25 October, the Panel made available to the members of the Committee supplementary information in support of its findings.

25. In informal consultations on 20 October 2010, the Committee met to discuss in depth the recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts. The Committee agreed to dispatch a note verbale to all Member States and a letter to the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, drawing their attention to paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1945 (2010). The two texts were approved on 29 November and dispatched subsequently. The Committee agreed that responsibility for attacks on UNAMID met the criteria for designating individuals as subject to the targeted sanctions. The Committee also agreed that, on a future date, it would invite the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur to provide to the

Committee a dedicated briefing on individuals who were impeding the peace process.

26. In informal consultations on 24 November 2010 and following the 7 June briefing by the Executive Director of the Global Compact, the Committee heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, John Ruggie, who informed the Committee that he did not have a country-specific mandate. He spoke in general about the draft guiding principles for the implementation of the "protect, respect and remedy" framework for better managing business and human rights challenges, which the Human Rights Council had asked him to produce.

27. During the period under review, in accordance with subparagraph 3 (a) (iv) of resolution 1591 (2005), the Chairman delivered four reports, each covering a 90-day period, to the Security Council. In each report he described the Committee's activities since his last briefing to the Council. He delivered the reports in informal consultations of the whole on 4 March, 10 June, 17 September and 16 December 2010.

28. In conducting its work, the Committee continued to apply the guidelines it adopted on 23 March 2006 and amended on 27 December 2007. Among other purposes, the guidelines serve to facilitate the implementation of the travel ban and assets freeze imposed by subparagraphs 3 (d) and (e) of resolution 1591 (2005), in accordance with subparagraph 3 (a) (iii) of the same resolution. In that connection, however, no requests were received by the Committee either to remove the names of individuals on the consolidated list of persons subject to the travel ban and assets freeze or to make exemptions to the targeted sanctions.

III. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime as reported by the Panel of Experts

29. In its 2010 final report, the Panel of Experts described continued violations of the arms embargo and of international humanitarian law and human rights perpetrated by various belligerents in Darfur. According to the Panel, sexual- and gender-based violence remained widespread. The Panel reported offensive military overflights and bombardments in Darfur. It also reported no concrete action by the Government of the Sudan to implement the targeted travel and financial sanctions. The Panel noted positive developments in the context of the normalization of relations between the Governments of the Sudan and Chad and the Doha process.

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Letter dated 30 December 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am transmitting herewith a letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Chairman of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by the Security Council in its resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Philippines adopted on 9 November 2010 (S/AC.51/2010/5) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**
President of the Security Council

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Annex to the letter dated 30 December 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

On 29 April 2010, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by the Security Council in its resolution 1612 (2005) examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Philippines (S/2010/36). At its 27th meeting, on 9 November 2010, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Philippines (S/AC.51/2010/5).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, which were approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), I am entrusted, in my capacity as the Chairman of the Working Group, to welcome the signing of an action plan between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the United Nations. In this regard, I commend the efforts made by the United Nations Children's Fund, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The Working Group requests you to enhance the capacity and ability of the monitoring and reporting task force to monitor and report on violations and abuses committed against children, including through the rectification and establishment of clear priorities to monitor and report violations and abuses committed by all parties to conflict against children. The Working Group also kindly requests you to continue to explore strategies to establish monitoring mechanisms in restricted areas, such as in south-western Mindanao.

The Working Group encourages the country task force to explore partnerships with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process to further develop activities to halt and respond to all violations against children, including the preparation of action plans as appropriate.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Chairman of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict